

pathway especially of the young practitioner, its sound advice and earnest plea for the preservation of the medical ideal, it is stamped as one of unusual literary value and human interest. Throughout, so strongly is it imbued with the personality of the author and so happily expressed are the thoughts and emotions which practice calls into being in all of us, that after perusing it, one puts it down feeling as though one had met an old and valued friend.

Though the book is meant mainly for the young man, every physician young and old should read it. They will be well repaid for their trouble, for it will be found a source of instruction, inspiration and delight.

K. I. L.

Essentials of Laboratory Diagnosis. Designed for Students and Practitioners. By Francis Ashley Faught, M. D., Director of the Laboratory of the Department of Clinical Medicine, and Assistant to the Professor of Clinical Medicine, Medico-Chirurgical College, etc., etc. Philadelphia, Pa. F. A. Davis Company, Publishers. 1909.

This manual contains a concise, practical account of the various laboratory methods commonly employed by the general practitioner. Each method is clearly described so that no difficulty ought to be experienced in carrying out the tests. There is a complete absence of all superfluous data, unnecessary detail, and of cumbersome methods many of which are too involved to be within the reach of the majority of practicing physicians. In every respect the work is a credit to the author and invaluable to those who from want of time or training cannot go into the matter more fully.

A. J. L.

Text Book of Hygiene. By George H. Rohe, M. D., Late Professor of Therapeutics, Hygiene, and Mental Diseases in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, etc., and Albert Robin, M. D., Professor of Pathology, Bacteriology and Hygiene, Medical Department Temple University, and Philadelphia Dental College, etc. Fourth Revised and Enlarged Edition. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1908.

Since the appearance of the third edition of this deservedly popular work important advances have been made in hygiene and sanitary science which have made it imperative to revise parts in accord with modern scientific conceptions of the subject. The original aim of the senior editor to present a clear account of the principles and practice of preventive medicine has in this edition been maintained. The most important changes have been made in that portion of the text relating to the causation and prevention of infectious diseases—lines along which notable advances have been made in recent years. The authors have been fortunate in securing the co-operation of several contributors eminent in their lines of special study. Among these are Surgeon-General Walter Wyman of the U. S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service who has revised the chapter on Quarantine; Dr. Francis W. Upshur of the University College of Medicine, Richmond, Va., who prepared the articles on School Hygiene, Clothing and Personal Hygiene; Surgeon-Major Walter D. McCaw of the Army Service who entirely rewrote the section on Military and Camp Hygiene; and Surgeon-Major Henry G. Beyer of the U. S. Army and Navy Medical School who is responsible for the part entitled Naval Hygiene.

A. J. L.

Hand-Book of Obstetrics. By R. Cadwallader, A. M., M. D., Assistant in Obstetrics, University of California, Medical Department. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia. 1908.

While some may question the wisdom of writing a book such as this, none will withhold praise for

the excellent manner in which the author has accomplished his task. Here we have a concise statement of obstetrical science and art well suited to the needs of students and those general practitioners who may desire a short account of the subject from a modern standpoint. Well arranged, written in an unusually clear and direct style, profusely illustrated, the volume leaves little to be desired although many will dissent from statements made or methods advocated by the author. Thus in the list of articles composing the physician's kit we would suggest replacing the oil-cloth by a Kelly pad; under the section entitled triplets a misstatement (probably a proofreader's error) is made concerning their frequency. Triplets do not occur about once in 89 times but according to the statistics of G. Veit about once in 7910 pregnancies.

In the section on Resuscitation of the Child, twelve different methods are enumerated including Laborde's which is misspelled Labarde's, but no mention is made of the recent work of Professor Schafer of the University of Edinburgh, in connection with this matter of artificial respiration. The subject of lacerations of the perineum is admirably handled but we cannot agree with the statement that tears involving the rectum should never be immediately repaired; most of us engaged in obstetrical work have seen brilliant results follow immediate repair if the tissues are not very edematous or bruised.

That manual extraction of the placenta is to be avoided if possible is unquestioned but that this "is one of the most dangerous of all obstetrical manoeuvres" has not been the experience of clean obstetricians. Other exceptions might be mentioned but after all they in no wise affect our judgment of the merits of this hand-book in which "clean hands and a pure heart" meet on common ground.

A. J. L.

Conservative Gynecology and Electro-Therapeutics.

A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Women and Their Treatment by Electricity. By G. Betton Massey, M. D., Attending Surgeon to the American Oncologic Hospital, Philadelphia; Fellow and Ex-President of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association; etc. Sixth Revised Edition, 462 pages. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia. 1909.

When the early publications of Tripier appeared in the middle of the last century the possibilities of electro-therapeutics in gynecological practice were scarcely realized; it remained for others, notably Apostoli, to show its applications in this connection. Nevertheless, while we are indebted to those who have investigated the subject for much suggestive and valuable information it is hardly probable that the matter has assumed proportions which warrant the publication of a work the size of this volume. It is incredible that anyone should have the temerity to tax the patience of the reader with so much language on a subject which has scarcely evolved beyond the stage of early impressions. Indeed, we suspect that here we have another glaring example of the modern, highly developed practice of "padding," systematically and consistently employed to the very end, even to the series of grotesque illustrations.

In this respect alone the usefulness of the book has been very seriously impaired but after all that is merely a matter of personal inconvenience which time and enterprise may overcome. Stripped of much verbiage and irrelevant material golden truths may be gleaned by the expert whose trained scent will enable him to disregard a mass of assumptions not justified by experience. To be enthusiastic about something is one thing; to judge it in terms of demonstrated facts is quite another. In enthusiasm for his pet therapeutic formula and panacea for the pelvic ills of woman the author is surely not lack-